

(Continued from Third page.)

straps were brand new, while the trunk looked as if it were taking its first journey for years. The number of the check was 662. When I returned to the coaches my suspect had gone into the smoker with a cigar. This left me free to work among the passengers, and I went from one to another with my own check on my palm, and asked:

"Excuse me, please, but does this check belong to you?"

Every one of the seven took out his or her check to make sure they had not lost it. I thus saw the numbers of all, and none had the number above given. That settled the ownership of the trunk I had selected. It certainly belonged to my suspect. I dared not approach him on the matter of his check, as that would alarm him and destroy the case I had built up. The only thing I could do was to watch him when we arrived at Weston. There were three hotels there, but all a mile away from the depot. There was a north and south road crossing there, but we would get in at 7 o'clock, and no train would pass before midnight. I gave the man no further heed until we reached our destination. Eight of the nine trunks were sent up town, while his was left in the baggage room. Three of us went to the same hotel. Had my suspect been intending to stop for a day or two he would have had his trunk brought up. I figured that he intended to go north or south during the night. He made no inquiries about trains, however, nor did he visit the up-town ticket office. At 9 o'clock he went to his room, leaving no word with the clerk. That certainly looked as if he meant to stay all night, but when I had seen him off I went and told my story to the chief of police. I was laughed at, of course. I had made a rope out of sand. The officer patted me on the shoulder in a fatherly way and advised me to stick to my line and let the professional detectives do the detecting. That ought to have squelched me, but it didn't. When I left the chief, I started for the depot to have a close look at that trunk. It stood on end in the baggage room and was the only trunk in the room. The door was wide open, and as I reached it a dog trotted in off the platform and began sniffing and smelling at the trunk. After a minute he began to whine and paw, and as I approached he growled at me.

The actions of the dog would have attracted anybody's attention. I called to the baggage man, and, after watching the performance for a bit, he agreed with me that there was something to investigate. We drove the dog out and had a sniff at the trunk. There was a rank, unpleasant odor. One sniff satisfied me that I had made no mistake in working up my case. I had no proof that this trunk belonged to my suspect. It had come off our train, and I believed it to be his, but there might be a mistake. I returned to the chief, and though still inclined to ridicule my "case," he consented to go down and see the trunk. In about half a minute he was satisfied that there was something out of the ordinary, but could not see his way clear. We had no right to look into the trunk, and we had no proofs to warrant an arrest. By getting hold of the train baggage man, I satisfied the chief that nine trunks had come down on the train. Eight of them had been taken away. If the owner of the ninth meant to take the cross line he would, of course, recheck. The chief argued that my suspect would not have taken a room for the night if intending to go away, but I asked that he wait and see what might happen. At 11:30 my man came down in a hack. He had come down stairs at 11 and settled his bill and made excuses for his change of plan. He at once stepped to the ticket office and bought a cross-line ticket and then began to walk up and down, saying nothing about baggage. I kept him in sight, but took care he should not see me. At 11:45, acting under instructions, the baggage man approached him and said:

"Excuse me, but you did not give me your baggage check. Where shall I recheck it?"

"Why—I—I—I—why, I have no check—no baggage!" stammered the man as he felt in his pockets.

He was badly upset, and even the cautious chief grew suspicious. I was so willing to stake everything upon a single move that I walked straight up to the man and asked:

"If that isn't your trunk in there, how do you happen to have the key to it? Its your trunk of course, I saw you check it at Chester. Why do you deny ownership?"

He wasn't a man of nerve. He turned pale, choked and stammered, and suddenly made a break for the door. The baggage man caught him, and he redeemed himself somewhat by giving the three of us a lively tussle for a couple of minutes. The key was taken from his pocket and the trunk unlocked. You have guessed its contents—a dismembered human body, and that of a woman. Next day when the doctors got to work they said it was a young woman who had been killed by repeated stabs. It was eight days before the victim was identified. When that occurred the identity of the man was also established. Fifteen miles west of Chester, in a village called Almont, our prisoner had kept a hotel. He was a widower and his reputation was not above reproach. His victim was his own cousin, a girl nineteen years old. What he did he had planned for weeks, and gone over the route to make sure. He had given out that he was going to England for a visit. He murdered the girl in the cellar of his hotel and carried the remains to the barn, and packed them in the trunk. He went about the thing so coolly that no trace was left to cause suspicion. He drove to Chester in the night, checked the trunk for Weston, three hundred miles away, and he hoped it might be left there for several

(Concluded on Sixth Page.)

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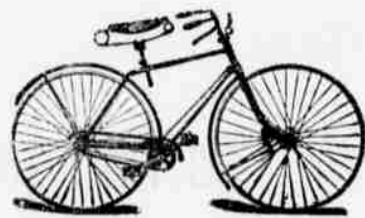
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American Flags.—6 to 18 feet long, came by the last steamer to us. They are a fine lot, sewed bunting.

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